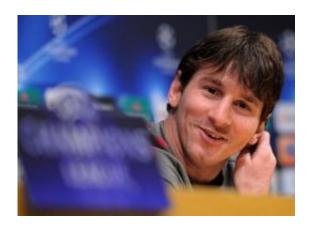


Messi Facebook page draws over 6 million

April 6 2011



Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi gives a press conference at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on April 5. Following tens of millions of other social media fans worldwide, Messi set up a Facebook page on Wednesday.

Following tens of millions of other social media fans worldwide, Barcelona midfield star Lionel Messi set up a Facebook page on Wednesday.

In contrast to his electronic <u>peers</u>, however, within just a few hours his page had attracted more than six million followers.

Such popularity warranted a speedy response from the Argentina international.

"Welcome to everyone and thanks for all the messages you have been sending me. Now we shall be closer with <u>Facebook</u>," said the two-time



world footballer of the year, whose <u>followers</u> come from all corners of the globe.

Messi, 23, was later hoping to help propel Barcelona towards the Champions League semi-finals with Barca taking on Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk at the Nou Camp Wednesday.

Assuming the three-time winners advance they will likely face La Liga rivals Real Madrid, 4-0 up from their first leg with Tottenham - a semifinal which will doubtless attract a welter of further posts from player and fans alike.

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